the Scheme financial assistance is provided @25% of the project cost in general areas and @ 33.33% in difficult areas subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakh and Rs. 75 lakh respectively. Recently, in order to give boost to growth of FPI sector the Government has allowed under Income Tax Act, a deduction of 100% of profit for five years and 25% of profit for the next five years in case of new agro processing industries set up to process, preserve and package fruits and vegetables.

Modernising FPIs

†1342. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take steps for modernization of Food Processing Industries in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of incentives proposed to be given to different States or non-Governmental entrepreneurs for the said purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) Government has already formulated and implemented a scheme for technology upgradation/establishment/modernization of FPI units in the country. Under the scheme financial assistance @25% of the project cost in general areas and @ 33.33% in difficult areas is provided subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakh and Rs. 75 lakh respectively. The scheme is project specific not State/area specific. Accordingly assistance is provided to the firms/organizations implementing the projects.

Developing FPIs

1343. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to improper facilities and policy implementation country loses agricultural foodstuffs worth more than Rs.50,000 crores annually;

(b) if so, Government's response thereto; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the details of comprehensive steps taken or proposed to be taken for developing food processing industry/sector in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) As per the report of M/s Rabo India Finance Private Limited, wastage of the agricultural foodstuffs is estimated to be about Rs.58000 crore occurring at various stages of handling after harvesting like inadequate post-harvest infrastructure, lack of cold chain facilities, transportation, proper storage facilities etc.

(b) and (c) Government has formulated and implemented several Plan Schemes to provide financial assistance for establishment and modernization of food processing units, creation of infrastructure, support for R&D, human resource development besides other promotional measures to encourage development of food processing industries. Recently, in order to give boost to growth of FPI sector the Government has allowed under Income Tax Act, a deduction of 100% of profit for five years and 25% of profit for the next five years in case of new agro processing industries set up to process, preserve and package fruits and vegetables. Excise duty of 16% on dairy machinery has been fully waived for promotion of dairy processing industries. Excise duty on meat, poultry and fish products has been reduced from 16% to 8%. Excise duty on food grade hexane used in edible oil industry has been reduced from 32% to 16%. A National Horticulture Mission has been launched *w.e.f.* Ist April 2005 with an objective to boost the horticulture sector. In the Budget of 2005-06 excise duty of Rs. 1.00 per kg on refined edible oil and Rs. 1.25 per kg on vanaspati was abolished. Customs duty on refrigerated vans was reduced from 20% to 10%.

New subjects in Chinese medical syllabus

†1344. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Medical Council of India (M.C.I) is considering to amend the Chinese medical syllabus or to add new subjects;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.